

3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter TY15- The 1-104<sup>th</sup> ARB conducted Aerial Gunnery Tables II-IV during a 4 day IDT in April 2015. The unit moved over 34 vehicles in a tactical convoy exceeding 300 miles to total over 10,000 miles to establish a field site and conduct continuous Sustainment Operations for 72 hours. The unit completed 11 Tables as part of its Annual Gunnery Program. The unit also added over 100 different endorsements to individual Military driver's license to better posture for convoy operations from Johnstown, PA to Camp Grayling, MI in May. The unit conducted several missions in support of 11B ALC at Fort Indiantown Gap. The unit also completed over 4500 phase maintenance inspections.

2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter TY15- The unit conducted an intensive Medical Readiness event in March to help improve its overall Combat Readiness and sustain a P2 for its USR. The unit exercised Mission Command while conducting intensive planning for Aerial Gunnery during May Annual Training and Planning in support of Operation Northern Strike at Camp Grayling, MI in July 2015.

1<sup>st</sup> Quarter TY15- The 1-104<sup>th</sup> ARB conducted Aerial Gunnery Tables II-IV during a 4 day IDT in November 2014. The unit moved over 30 vehicles in a tactical convoy exceeding 300 miles to total over 9,000 miles to establish a field site and conduct continuous Sustainment Operations for 72 hours. The unit completed 12 Tables as part of its Annual Gunnery Program. The unit had over 70 personnel qualify with their individual weapons system. The unit also supported US Navy Coastal Riverine Group 2, 17<sup>th</sup> Special Tactics Squadron (USAF) and conducted mission training with 106<sup>th</sup> Rescue Squadron NY ANG at Warren Grove, NJ during the month of December. Aerial Attack Operations was conducted in the AVCATT training device in December as an effort to maximize training during inclement weather.

TY-14- The 1-104<sup>th</sup> ARB was in a RESET year during TY14. Aviator Re-integration date was 1 January. The unit implemented the new TC3-04.45 Gunnery Program and developed a UTP that focused on Aerial Gunnery, Individual Skills, and NCOES / OES schooling. The unit renewed its working relationship with numerous USAF ASOS units in support of JTAC Training. The unit continued to work to sustain the skill set it developed in the Mobilization process while incorporating newly schooled Aviators and Maintainers into the units overall training plan.....

The unit Redeployed from OEF in August 2013 and focused on several reintegration and reunion events during the fall of CY13.

The 1-104th ARB conducted combat aviation operations in Regional Commands North, East and West in support of ground force commanders, Special Operations forces, Afghan National Security Forces and International Security Assistance Forces (ISAF), as well as numerous coalition and allied forces. The battalion task force consisted of an organic Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Companies A and B (Attack), Company D (AVUM), Company E (Forward Support), an attached Company C (Attack) 1-285th ARB, Company B 2-501st GSAB (Heavy Lift), Company C 2-501st GSAB (MEDEVAC), Company B 3-501st (Air Assault), and Company B 127th ASB.

The 1-104th Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, then Task Force Shadow Warriors, embarked upon the road to war beginning in 2009, was officially ordered to active duty 21 August 2012 to

begin a one year deployment in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM (OEF) in Afghanistan. With several changes to the mobilization/deployment timeline and destination ultimately the unit was given only five months notification to prepare and was rapidly placed into the deployment rotation in support of OEF.

The 1-104th ARB had originally been slated to deploy in March of 2013 in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM. In December 2011, the Notification of Sourcing was revoked along with all associated funding, priority for training and schools resulting in the 1-104<sup>th</sup> ARB being without a specified mission. Also in December 2011, the 1-104th ARB was tasked with providing **16 of 24 assigned Block II Longbow** AH-64D aircraft to the 1-211th ARB in order to complete their Unit Fielding Training Program at Fort Hood with Block II Apaches. This is the same unit the 1-104 ARB would replace one year later in Afghanistan in December 2012. The battalion leadership was able to continue to focus on training and posture the unit to answer the call to deploy in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM.

When the new NOS was received in April 2012, 1-104th ARB was given the short notice to deploy within 5 months, jumping forward and being put back on the deployment list for mobilization in August of 2012. Despite the brief pause in training, the unit was quick to resume the process for deployment quickly re-integrating all Block II AH-64D aircraft for use in the Battalion's gunnery in April-May 2012, completing all pre-mobilization required training such as 15-4 training while continuing to RL progress aviators recently returning from flight school, and its most recent PC and AMC selections. These actions displayed the commitment and character of the many Soldiers willing to carry the burden of deploying despite the on again, off again nature of the mobilization process. During this time period- FY 2012 the 1-104 ARB flew 5859 AH-64D hours, RL progressed more than a dozen aviators all of which were recent graduates of IERW, progressed 17 PCs and AMCs and qualified 34 crews in Table VII and VIII day/night gunnery during the unit's two week Annual Training at Fort Knox KY.

Immediately following the extremely tight training 5 month training schedule the 1-104 ARB Mobilized to Fort Hood to complete the Block II AH-64D Unit Fielding Training Program (UFTP) which was the first major step to deploying the unit to Afghanistan. The UFTP training set the stage for 1-104th's continued success, which had been demonstrated through the previous months of deployment preparation and fielding of AH-64D Longbows. 1-104th ARB arrived at Ft. Hood with a lofty desire not only to succeed, but to raise the bar for all succeeding units. The 1-104 ARB was the first unit attending the UFTP at Fort Hood that simultaneously completed HAMETS training for all the Battalion's aviators while completing the rigorous training syllabus designed by 21<sup>st</sup> CAV and 1<sup>st</sup> Army. The 1-104th excelled during all training that was undertaken and was continually given praise by the Hood MOB Brigade, 21st CAV, and 1st Army advisors on the capabilities, timeliness of reporting, and unit's extremely high morale. All organizations reported that the 1-104th ARB was one of the best units that they had seen come through the UFTP in some time.

Early in December 2012 the 1-104th moved from Ft. Hood, Texas to Regional Command-North, Afghanistan in support of OEF-XIII. Bravo Company 1-285th was detached and relocated with Task Force Storm 3-158th AHB Shindand, Afghanistan, in RC-West. Alpha Company 1-104th was detached and relocated to Task Force Ready 5-158th GSAB, Mazar-e-Sharif, Afghanistan in

RC-North. The Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Bravo Company, Delta Company, and Echo Company 1-104th were pushed further east to Kunduz, Afghanistan. 1-104th ARB arrived fully prepared and capable to complete the mission at hand.

1-104th Attack Reconnaissance Battalion (Task Force Iron Warriors) deployed to Camp Marmal, Afghanistan, in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM XIII-XIV from 12 December 2012 to 13 August 2013. The 1-104th ARB conducted combat aviation operations in Regional Commands North, East and West in support of ground force commanders, Special Operations Forces, Afghan National Security Forces and International Security Assistance Forces (ISAF), as well as numerous coalition and allied forces. The Aviation Battalion Task Force consisted of an organic Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Companies A and B (Attack), Company D (AVUM), Company E (Forward Support), an attached Company C (Attack) 1-285th ARB, Company B 2-501st GSAB (Heavy Lift), Company C 2-501st GSAB (MEDEVAC), Company B 3-501st (Air Assault), and Company B 127th ASB.

The 1-104<sup>th</sup> ARB (TF Shadow Warriors), deployed to Regional Command-North, Afghanistan in early December 2012 in support of OEF-XIII-XIV. Bravo Company 1-285th was detached and deployed in support of Task Force Storm 3-158th AHB Shindand, Afghanistan, in RC-West. Alpha Company 1-104th was detached and deployed in support of Task Force Ready 5-158th GSAB, Mazar-e-Sharif, Afghanistan in RC-North. The 1-104<sup>th</sup> ARB Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Bravo Company, Delta Company, and Echo Company 1-104th deployed to FOB Kunduz, Afghanistan. TF Shadow Warriors arrived in theatre prepared to execute the challenging aviation mission across the rugged mountainous and high desert plains of RC-N Afghanistan.

TF Shadow Warriors arrived at FOB Kunduz, Afghanistan in December 2012 Task Organized under 101<sup>st</sup> CAB in Bagram Afghanistan, beginning their task of conducting operations across five provinces to include, Kunduz & Baghlan Provinces. Task Force Shadow Warriors efficiently integrated two additional aviation units, Company B 5-158th Aviation Regiment and Company C 3-158th Aviation Regiment of the 12<sup>th</sup> Combat Aviation Brigade, creating a multi-faceted aviation task force capable of executing hasty or deliberate air assault, air movement, close combat attack (CCA) and MEDEVAC operations at the direction of the RC-N Command and RC-E Division Command. The aviation task force primarily focused combat operations across two major provinces, Baghlan and Kunduz in support of special operations forces, US and coalition forces. The aviation task force demonstrated its ability to support combat operations throughout the RC-N AO by establishing split-based operations with the forward deployment of aviation assets at Forward Operating Bases (FOBs) Khilegay and Kunduz Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT).

In February 2013, TF Shadow Warriors redeployed to Camp Marmal, Afghanistan in support of strategic retrograde operations to establish a robust Aviation Task Force. TF Shadow Warriors evolved to become TF Iron Warriors through the integration of six subordinate 2-501st GSAB units and 4 subordinate units from 1-104th ARB. TF Iron Warriors became the only US rotary wing aviation task force assigned to conduct aviation operations in support of ground forces across 16 provinces in RC-N. The task force consisted of over 700 personnel, incorporating elements of 2-501<sup>st</sup> 3-501<sup>st</sup> AHB and 127th ASB. The newly designated and expanded aviation

task force (TF Iron Warriors) conducted air assaults, deliberate air movements, Attack, Reconnaissance and Security operations, MEDEVAC and sustainment operations in support of coalition forces (CF) across RC-N in order to support the transition to independent ANSF operations. Throughout TF Iron Warriors' tenure in RC-N, the strategic focus of direct action combat operations, integrating retrograde operations. TF Iron Warrior provided extensive support to coalition forces while FOB's and COP's were transitioned to the ANSF, reducing the area of responsibility from 16 provinces to 9 provinces. Task Force Iron Warriors conducted combat aviation operations across nine provinces from three locations in support of ISAF, RC-N, SOJTF-A, and USFOR-A operations throughout OEF-XII and through the transition phase of the campaign into OEF-XIV. The split-based operational staging locations were vital to MEDEVAC support, staging for air assaults, and forward logistical support operations for US and coalition forces operating across RC-N, Afghanistan. TF Iron Warriors aviation assets were strategically arrayed across RC-N to enable rapid response through the effective task organization of these critical assets; the task force was able to execute in excess of 30 MEDEVAC missions. The unwavering commitment to the mission enabled TF Iron Warriors to extend its operational reach in order to provide uninterrupted serviceability to support the ground force commanders and battle space integrators supporting ANSF operations regardless of mission or nationality.

Throughout the challenging combat deployment, TF Iron Warriors' developed a staunch reputation for its professionalism, steadfast reliability, commitment to excellence, and incredible efficiency in mission execution across Afghanistan. The RC-N Commander, 101<sup>st</sup> Combat Aviation Brigade and 10<sup>th</sup> CAB Commanders and staff consistently recognized the skills, knowledge and abilities of the TF Iron Warrior's. Through effective and creative resource management, asset allocation and economy of force, TF Iron Warriors sustained a 100 percent mission execution rate throughout entire deployment, totaling more than 800 combat missions. TF Iron Warriors executed more than 210 reconnaissance and security missions for US and coalition forces ensuring safe passage of convoys and freedom of maneuver of ground forces throughout the RC-N area of operations. TF Iron Warriors' executed more than 400 air movements in excess of 3285 passengers and 219,000 pounds of cargo throughout the Area of Operation. TF Iron Warrior additionally conducted in excess of 60 time sensitive targeting capture/ kill air assault operations and greater than 50 deliberate air assault operations in support of U.S. Special Forces. These extraordinary achievements quickly earned the admiration of the RC-N Commander, BG Jorg Vollmer (German Armed Forces), the RC-N staff at the Headquarters in Camp Marmal, Afghanistan, the 101<sup>st</sup> CAB and 101<sup>st</sup> Division. The exceptional command relationships fostered tremendous bonds with all ten ISAF partners executing combat and combat support operations throughout RC-N. TF Iron Warriors routinely supported Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRT) Kunduz and MeS under German mission command providing force protection and lethal fires in such volatile locations as Kunduz and Baghlan Provinces. Aviation operations in support of North Atlantic Transition Unit (NBTSU) enabled successful retrograde of Swedish Armed Forces personnel and equipment from FOB Monitor, Jowzjan Province, providing aerial security and aviation logistical support. These dynamic coalition relationships expanded the operational reach and capabilities of the aviation task force across the vast and diverse RC-N terrain.

TF Iron Warriors had the distinct honor of being the sole aviation task force in support of Special Operations Task Force – North (SOTF-N). TF Iron Warriors executed more than 60 deliberate air assaults in support of multiple Special Operations Forces (SOF), ODA teams and two expeditionary task force operations ISO 5th SOK (Afghan Special Forces).

Headquarters Company provided support for numerous critical missions outside the 1-104th organic units, maintaining tactical control of two UH-60A MEDEVAC units, one co-located at Kunduz and one located 24 miles southeast of Kunduz at Forward Operating Base (FOB) Khilegay. HHC assumed TACON for a 6-man section of Military Police personnel, a 6-man section of Air Traffic Controllers, a 6-man Air Force Firefighter element, a 14 man U.S. Navy Fire-Scout Unit and 3 Air Force Weather Operators. The 1-104<sup>th</sup> ARB HHC integrated a UH-60 Air Assault platoon and one CH-47 platoon ISO direct action operations. The UH-60 platoon added an increased capability of providing an organic lift asset that moved personnel and equipment across RC- North. The CH-47 platoon provided direct support operations to the ODA that was a key player in eliminating many ISA within the Kunduz and Baghlan areas of operation.

Alpha Company was detached from the 1-104<sup>th</sup> ARB and attached to Task Force Ready based in Mazar-e-Sharif. A Co Reapers were quickly integrated in the new task force in support of executing complex deliberate air assault missions within days of arriving in theatre, without any loss in combat effectiveness. Alpha company conducted numerous air assaults with the helicopter assault force of Task Force Ready and a variety of multi-national conventional and special operations units. The company also provided direct support to ground forces throughout RC-N on a daily basis. These missions ranged from village clearing, convoy security, reconnaissance, MEDEVAC escort and quick reaction force to troops in contact. The Alpha Company mechanics assumed and resolved the challenge of integration in a GSAB task force, sustaining the quality maintenance program required to enable for continuous support in RC-N. They overcame the many challenges that existed from integrating with a General Support Aviation Battalion which does not normally have Apaches organic to their organization or the infrastructure to support them.

Alpha company crew chiefs and pilots were invaluable to the success and safe operations conducted by Task Force Ready throughout RC-N and had a direct impact on the larger mission of the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan. Upon task force consolidation, Company A was redeployed to FOB Fenty, Jalalabad and to FOB Salerno, Khost, both located in RC-E Afghanistan. Alpha Company was able to move directly from RC-North with all eight airframes, support equipment and personnel and immediately start conducting company level split based operations within RC-East at two separate locations - a first of its kind undertaking for the 1-104th ARB. Within RC-E, the split based unit supported the Afghan National Air Force MI-17 (Jahoon) resupply escorts as critical IJC partnership, Operation Strong Eagle V, Operation Airport Plaza (Hisarak), TF Allons, multiple daily route clearance patrol escorts in the Kunar Valley, multiple engagements and close air support within the Waygal Valley (Major Afghan Objective), Pech Valley (FOBs Honinker Miracle, Monti, Fortress, Penich, Joyce, and Bostick Retrograde) and numerous IDF interdiction (CM2RI) missions including surrounding COPs and FOBs within the Kunar Valley allowing only enduring mission outposts to remain. Company A maintained unit cohesion and company mission focus despite the fact that the unit

was geographically displaced, experienced the loss of an aircraft and aircrew and remained postured to effectively execute more than 3,600 combat flight hours and successfully complete over 250 direct combat missions.

Throughout the deployment, CO B 1-104<sup>th</sup> ARB flew more than 4500 hours safely and successfully meeting all mission requirements. B Co maintained an 81% aircraft readiness rate, 6% above the Army standard. The company executed complex combat operations free of any major accidents and maintained 100% accountability of personnel and equipment during two major movements from PA to Ft. Hood, TX for the Unit Fielding and Training Program (UFTP), and later to Afghanistan. The B Co 1-104<sup>th</sup> ARB/ TF Iron Warrior Outcasts planned, performed, and executed professionally in all of Afghanistan's regional commands (RCs) with the exception of RC-South and included many different missions such as QRF, kinetic strikes, security, RECON, deliberate operations, route RECONs, convoy security, aerial security, aerial escort, Close Combat Attack (CCA) training, SIGINT development, earthquake damage and humanitarian assessments, and even parts runs with the AH64D. Bravo Company Outcasts performed at the highest levels of expertise and professionalism in an extreme, hostile, mountainous, dusty environment with many different ISAF and Afghan partners across all of RC-North.

CO D 1-104<sup>th</sup> "Dragons" provided phase-team support to flight operations for the task force, as well as maintenance and armament personnel to TF Storm and TF Ready. Once established at FOB Kunduz, Delta Company immediately took over the phase maintenance duties for eight AH-64D aircraft, as well as managing maintenance of 3 CH-47s and 9 UH-60s. Their work was done completely with mechanics organic to their company and without contractor support. During the period from **December 2012 to August 2013, CO D 1-104<sup>th</sup> ARB completed eleven 500-hour inspections averaging 10.7 days from start to finish never exceeding the 101<sup>st</sup> CAB and 10<sup>th</sup> CAB standard of 12 days.** This work was also done while experiencing increasingly difficult manning restrictions as their force was cut continuously from the beginning of the deployment with no loss of production during those eight months. Following consolidation with 2-501<sup>st</sup> GSAB at Mazar-e-Sharif, CO D assumed the role of scheduled maintenance on AH-64D and unscheduled maintenance responsibilities on UH-60 and CH-47F. **In total, Delta Company supported over 9,000 flight hours for TF Iron Warriors with a ready to launch rate of 99% resulting in the best aircraft RTL (Ready to Launch) rate in the 10<sup>th</sup> CAB.**

CO E 1-104<sup>th</sup> ARB pumped more than **1.5 million gallons of JP8 for more than 7,000 aircraft** with a skeleton crew while providing fuel for all of northeast Afghanistan. The ground vehicle maintenance team quality of service also exceeded the standard. Fully Mission Capable status equipment (all TPE inherited items) increased from 40% to 96%, with a team of only 6 mechanics and extensive parts transit issues. The Echo Company Food Service Crew consisted of only 4 Soldiers, but they were responsible for feeding more than 660,000 meals. They also supported more than 30 morale supporting functions from bar-b-ques, to 5K races, to a half marathon. All of the units on FOB Kunduz were supported with extra Class I for missions

through CO E “Easy Riders”, and they were responsible for over 580,000 liters of water used during their deployment. During the tenure of the 1-104<sup>th</sup> ARB managing FOB Kunduz dining facility, it was ranked number one against all RCs in Afghanistan.

January 2009, 68 Member of the Attack Battalion mobilized in support of the 28th Combat Aviation Brigade in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. 1-104<sup>th</sup> ARB deployed with the 28<sup>th</sup> CAB to MND-S in support of Combat Operations. Unit members played a pivotal role in the support to units in Basarah, Kirkuk, and Talil, Iraq.

Upon the Redeployment from KFOR6B the 1-104<sup>th</sup> AVN Converted 16 January 2006 as the 1st Battalion, 104th Aviation Attack Reconnaissance Battalion. In the process, Headquarters Company was divided and expanded into two companies, HHC and E Company.

The 1-104<sup>th</sup> AVN received notification in the Spring of 2004 for a BN TF sized element to deploy to Kosovo in support of OEF / KFOR for the KFOR 6B Rotation. Over 200 personnel Mobilized in October of 2004 to Fort Hood, TX. Units from 2-104<sup>th</sup> GSAB, 1-104<sup>th</sup> AVN, and Medevac from Kansas and New Mexico formed Task Force Shadow. Upon Validation the unit moved to CMTC in Hohenfelds Germany for final Mobilization Certification and departed for Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo in March of 2004. The unit provided Attack Helicopter, Air Movement and Air Assault support and Medevac Support to Kosovo. The unit had a 100% accident free rate and earned the Army Superior Unit Award for its contributions and reputation in support of 40<sup>th</sup> ID and TF Falcon.

In March 2004 the unit received its first AH-64A Apache's. The unit arrived at the Mob Site six months later with 100% of its company aviators Readiness Level 1 Day, Night, NVG.

The 1-104<sup>th</sup> Attack Battalion was Reorganized 1 November 2002, into an Apache Attack Helicopter Battalion. At the same time, Company B was relocated to Fort Indiantown Gap, PA.

The 1-104<sup>th</sup> was Relocated from Washington, PA to Johnstown, PA May through August 1997. There were no changes to the battalions structure as a result of the move.

Converted 1 October 1987 as the 1st Battalion, 104th Aviation Attack

Helicopter, a parent regiment under the United States Army Regimental

System. The unit transitioned to AH-1Ss and eventually AH-1Fs while still retaining OH-6 Scout Aircraft. By 1992 the unit was predominately AH-1Fs and began fielding AH-1Fs with Forward Looking Infrared (FLIR) The Attack Battalion fired its first night Aerial Gunnery in 1996 utilizing NVGs to fire TOE missiles.

Converted 1 April 1975 as Troop D, 1st Squadron, 104th Cavalry. The unit consisted of M Model UH-1 Gun Ships and OH-6 Scout Aircraft at this time. A large portion of the unit was Vietnam Veterans that had left Active Duty to continue service in the ARNG.

Re-designated 1 January 1975 as the Support Company, 28th Aviation Battalion.

Reorganized 17 February 1968 as Company B, 28th Aviation Battalion.

Organized and Federally recognized 1 June 1960 in the Pennsylvania Army  
National Guard at Washington, PA as part of the 28th Aviation Company.